

TIPTON
Urban District Council.

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,

A. S. UNDERHILL, M.D., D.P.H.,

For the Year 1906,

WITH

Supplementary Reports

BY

C. H. CLIFTON, C.S.I., A.R.S.I.,

(Inspector of Nuisances),

AND

WM. H. JUKES,

(Surveyor).

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Tipton Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.



To the Chairman and Members of the

Tipton Urban District Council.



Great Bridge, January, 1907.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

31ST ANNUAL REPORT.

I have pleasure in submitting to you my report for the year 1906, together with supplementary reports by Mr. Clifton, the Sanitary Inspector, and by Mr. Jukes, the Surveyor to the Council, giving a summary of the work that has carried on under their supervision.

In comparing statistics with other towns, it must be remembered that Tipton is not a residential district. Few of the cultured or better, well-to-do class people will live here by preference, consequently we miss much that can be learnt from constant intercourse with, and the example of, those who make sanitary matters a daily and important part of their every day life. Much is being done by the building of new houses with improved sanitary conditions for artisans, but, unfortunately, too often the houses are more or less jerry-built, and there is a want of air space about them which to a great extent spoils their other advantages. I refer, more

especially, to the sanitary conveniences being built too near to the living rooms of the houses, and in such a position that it is impossible to reach the living rooms without necessarily passing in too close contact with such conveniences.

In course of time, when the deep sewerage scheme has become more general, we hope that the use of water closets will supplant the present insanitary and unsightly privy cess-pit accommodation which holds, as a rule, in the district. The ashpits, as at present arranged, are often dangerously near the houses, serving, as they do, as a receptacle, not only for ashes, but for all kinds of organic refuse, the proper place for which is on the fire, and not to be thrown out to decompose and pollute the atmosphere surrounding the ashpits. This condition can be easily remedied by the use of galvanized iron bins of sufficient size to hold the refuse of three days, and then to be removed by the scavengers. There were difficulties in the project for making a bath in the Park, due, principally, to the difficulty of the water supply, the proposed water supply being inconstant and not always of sufficient purity to insure a water at times not contaminated with organic matter. The provision of public baths has often come under discussion, and it is only the question of expense that has prevented them being built.

A considerable improvement has been effected by the purchase, by the Council, of some very insanitary property, and its subsequent demolition by order. I refer, more particularly to "the City," and to some properties in Watery Lane. Nothing could have made these properties sanitary, and for years they had been an eyesore to the district.

It must be recognised that it is impossible for any sanitary authority to completely abolish old and more or less insanitary dwellings. There are two classes that have to be dealt with, the improvident, who will not pay any or a very small rent, and the abjectly poor, who cannot afford to pay more than 2/6 or 2/- per week rent. If all of the poor class of property was demolished, there would be no place for these people to live in, and the result would be that two families would live in one house, and the creation of a worse sanitary condition than before. It is of no use to build a house which cannot be let under 4/- or 4/6 a week rent; they cannot afford the rent, and if they could they would not. As sanitarians I think that the most we can do for such tenants is to see that they are provided with pure water, that good arrangements are made for the removal of their dejecta and sewage, that their drains are kept clean, and that their landlords are compelled to periodically white-wash their dwellings, and to keep them water-tight.

The general health of the district has been good. An outbreak of Typhoid Fever occurred which has increased our mortality rate: this is, however, under control. The number of Infants under one year of age is considerable, but this is the case in all towns similarly situated to ours, and will so continue until mothers are more careful in the feeding of their children, and in keeping their bodies clean and their surroundings in a more sanitary condition.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACT,

WITH TABLE OF MORTALITY FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There has been a remarkable similarity in the number of infectious cases notified during the past two years, but the mortality this year is considerably higher than last year, 27 deaths in 1906 against 16 in 1905. This is to be accounted for by the higher mortality rate in Typhoid Fever (*see special report*) this year, the large number of 16 deaths having been registered. Every case notified is visited at once by the Sanitary Inspector, who either isolates the patient in the hospital, or takes such immediate steps as he considers necessary to prevent its spread. Soap and disinfectants are supplied gratuitously, and the houses are disinfected, where the people are too poor to provide for such necessary precautions themselves.

Table shewing the cases of infectious diseases notified and their mortality:

	1901		1902		1903		1904		1905		1906	
	Noti- fied	Died	Noti- fied	Died	Noti- fied	Died	Noti- fied	Died	Noti- fied	Died	Noti- fied	Died
Scarlet Fever	68	2	418	28	352	10	141	0	59	0	58	1
Enteric Fever	28	2	48	9	24	7	52	10	52	6	54	16
Erysipelas	61	3	43	1	46	0	49	3	36	1	35	2
Membranous Croup and Diphtheria	54	4	25	0	28	4	34	10	36	9	36	8
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0	5	2	5	1	2	0	4	1
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	*1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
	211	11	534	38	456	23	284	24	185	16	187	28

* Diagnosis not confirmed.

HOSPITAL.

The hospital has done very good service during the year in isolating infectious cases. We find no difficulty in the removal of such cases, and very many are glad to have the sick patients removed from their midst. We admit Scarlatina and Typhoid Fever; if there is any necessity we can also admit cases of Diphtheria. During the year 25 cases of Scarlatina were admitted, 1 died from severe throat complications. 33 cases of Typhoid Fever were admitted, with 6 deaths. The mortality from Typhoid Fever is excessive, but 2 of them were alcoholics, and the other 4 were very severe cases who were extremely ill when admitted. We have accommodation for 22 cases (giving 1500 cubic feet of air space per bed), and for four nurses when these may be required. There are always on duty one nurse, and a laundry woman who acts as cook and scrubber when the hospital is only partially occupied. During the year the hospital was empty for about eight weeks, *viz.*, from June 16th to July 18th, and again from August 29th until September 26th. A comfortable and convenient ambulance has been provided, which has taken the place of the unsightly and decrepit old car formerly in use. In every case of infectious disease when notified, the Sanitary Inspector visits the case at once; if suitable accommodation cannot be provided at their home, and we can admit them, they are sent to the hospital in the ambulance. Twice a week two of the patients' friends may look through the window at the patients. In cases of very severe illness, by special permission of the Medical Officer of Health, two of the nearest relatives are allowed into the wards. If the patient is in sufficiently good circumstances they are expected to make a donation towards the expense of their maintenance; if too poor, everything is gratuitous. Pauper cases are admitted at a fixed sum by special arrangements with the Guardians. The Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Superintendent, and is responsible for the administration of the hospital and the treatment of the patients. He reports every month to the Sanitary Committee, or to the Hospital Committee, whatever has transpired during the month in the hospital. The Typhoid Fever cases have been exceptionally bad cases, and have given us much trouble and anxiety.

Summary of cases under treatment during the year :

	SCARLATINA.					TYPHOID FEVER.				
	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902
January ...	5	2	8	6	3	...	2	0	1	0
February ...	0	3	8	9	10	...	0	0	0	2
March ...	3	1	6	15	0	...	0	0	1	2
April ...	1	0	5	11	5	...	0	2	0	5
May ...	0	1	7	12	5	...	1	2	6	1
June ...	0	0	3	11	1	...	0	1	1	0
July ...	2	0	2	14	4	...	2	1	0	0
August ...	0	0	7	21	0	...	0	8	8	0
September	0	0	3	7	21	...	14	5	2	0
October ...	1	3	1	19	13	...	1	0	3	0
November	5	2	0	5	14	...	5	1	3	0
December	8	4	1	5	13	...	8	2	3	5
TOTALS	25	16	51	135	89		33	22	28	17

	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906
Cases admitted during year	105	135	99	40	65
Discharged cured	82	132	74	38	48
Died	7	4	4	1	7
Now under treatment	16	7	1	7	10

WATER SUPPLY.

The district is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, which gives a constant, regular and efficient supply. I have had no complaints during the year of any shortage of water. No new house is allowed to be inhabited unless this water supply is laid on. It is impossible to use well water in the district with any certainty of its being pure. I have analyzed very many samples of well water, and have never yet found any to be free from pollution. Practically the use of this supply is universal. I analyze samples from wells when discovered, and always have to report them as being more or less contaminated with sewage. Except in the very populous parts of the district, the houses are built on made ground which has been more or less damaged by the disused pits, and so leaves underground cracks through which sewage can percolate.

MEASLES.

The epidemic of Measles noted in my last report completely died out early in the year, and after the children returned

to school in January, I heard of no more cases. There have been several sporadic cases and one death during the year. Early in December Measles broke out in the New Road, but the number of cases was not of any importance.

Number of deaths in the past 10 years :

1896	10 deaths	...	1901	21 deaths
1897	3 „	...	1902	2 „
1898	76 „	...	1903	14 „
1899	0 „	...	1904	7 „
1900	48 „	...	1905	49 „
Average for previous 10 years				23 „
1906				1 death

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

During the year 24 cases of Diphtheria and 12 of Membranous Croup have been notified. Two fatal cases of Diphtheria have been registered, and six of Membranous Croup, making a total of eight for the combined diseases. Each case notified has been visited, and proper instructions have been given for the prevention of its spread ; some have been very mild cases. The disease has not at any time been epidemic. Five of the cases were in May, but were not in any way connected one with another, nor were they in houses at all near each other.

Deaths registered in past 10 years :

1896	4 deaths	...	1901	4 deaths
1897	1 „	...	1902	0 „
1898	4 „	...	1903	4 „
1899	2 „	...	1904	10 „
1900	9 „	...	1905	9 „
Average for previous 10 years				4.7 „
1906				8 deaths

TYPHOID FEVER.

We have again had an outbreak of Typhoid Fever in Horseley Heath, the number of cases being larger, and the type of disease more severe. The first time that Typhoid Fever was epidemic in this district was in the months of May, June, July and August, 1904. In this outbreak 18 cases were notified, 11 of which were removed to the hospital, 1

died before it was notified, and in 6 the accommodation at their own home was good, so that they were not removed. During the month of August, 1905, in the same district, 12 cases occurred, and in the past year, 1906, during the months of May, June, July to December, 46 cases have occurred; of these 23 were removed to the hospital, and 8 have died. There was no milk supply common to the district. All had the South Staffordshire Waterworks supply. 6 had water closets, the rest had the usual privy midden accommodation. There was also a case attributed to infection from this source which proved fatal in an adjoining district. The sanitary condition of the various properties in this area has been under close supervision, both by the Sanitary Inspector and myself, and by the Chairman of the Sanitary Committee. We advised a more general addition of the water closet system, a general joining up of all of the drains to the sewer, more cleanly habits of the mothers and children, and many minor sanitary improvements which are now being carried out. We have advised that more attention be paid to the sanitary condition of the stream which runs through the lower part of this district, as we have received many complaints of its very offensive condition at certain periods of the year. In most of the houses the tenants were very poor and very dirty, and were very careless in keeping their drains and the surface of the ground around their dwellings, and their closets in anything like a cleanly condition.

Numbers of deaths registered in the past 10 years :

1896	14 deaths	...	1901	8 deaths
1897	6	„	1902	9
1898	5	„	1903	7
1899	8	„	1904	10
1900	12	„	1905	5
Average for the previous 10 years				8.5
1906				16 deaths

SCARLET FEVER.

During the year 58 cases have been notified; 22 were admitted into the hospital. There has been 1 death in the hospital from severe throat complications. The disease has never been epidemic, it has never broken out in any one particular district, nor have the cases occurred at any one period of the year. The notifications have been fairly evenly

spread throughout the year. In each case that has been notified, prompt measures have been taken to prevent its spread, isolation in the hospital being resorted to in every case when possible.

Number of deaths in past 10 years :

1896	14 deaths	...	1901	2 deaths		
1897	6	„	1902	28	„	
1898	5	„	1903	10	„	
1899	8	„	1904	0	„	
1900	3	„	1905	0	„	
Average for previous 10 years				7.6	„	
1906				1 death		
			1902	1903	1904	1905
Notified	...	...	418	352	141	59
Admitted into Hospital			80	132	51	16
						22

EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA.

There have been 5 deaths, 4 in the first half and 1 in the second half of the year. At no time has it been epidemic, and the type of the disease is much less severe than it formally was. The deaths occurred to adults, 25—65 years of age. In the past quarter many children have been attacked with a complaint much resembling Influenza, which was not fatal, was much more severe than an ordinary cold, and was followed by much weariness for some time after recovery.

Number of deaths registered in the past 10 years :

1896	5 deaths	...	1901	13 deaths
1897	2	„	1902	5
1898	4	„	1903	10
1899	5	„	1904	5
1900	9	„	1905	10
Average for previous 10 years				6.8
1906				5 deaths

WHOOPING COUGH.

This disease has been very prevalent during the year. 11 deaths have been registered, of which 9 were infants under 1 year of age. This is a disease which, in our crowded localities, it is impossible to deal with. Mothers do not consult a medical man until some complication arises,

and probably the case is too far gone for cure. As infant schools are the hot beds for this and other infectious diseases, teachers should be warned to send away any child who has at all a suspicious cough, and it should be certified by a medical man as free from infection before it should be allowed to attend school again.

Number of deaths registered in the past 10 years :

1896	28 deaths	...	1901	8 deaths
1897	8	„	1902	8
1898	14	„	1903	4
1899	11	„	1904	30
1900	12	„	1905	1
Average for previous 10 years				12.4
1906				11 deaths

PHTHISIS OR CONSUMPTION.

There have been 15 deaths registered from Consumption, 13 of which were people between the ages 25—65, practically in the prime of life. This is much to be regretted, as it is believed that Consumption is a curable disease if the cases are put under treatment at a sufficiently early stage of the disease. Many of the cases can be readily traced to infection from a consumptive patient; it is essential that consumptive patients should be careful to disinfect their sputum, or to spit on the fire. The germ of Consumption lives in the sputum, and will remain a source of danger long after the sputum has become dry.

Number of deaths in the past 10 years :

1896	27 deaths	...	1901	14 deaths
1897	14	„	1902	18
1898	17	„	1903	18
1899	25	„	1904	26
1900	17	„	1905	18
Average for previous 10 years				12.5
1906				15 deaths

SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION.

No case of Smallpox has been notified. We are, however, well prepared for separate isolation in case of an

outbreak, as we have close by our district an up-to-date, well-equipped and convenient hospital, managed by a joint South Staffordshire Board. We were fortunate in the last two cases that were imported into our district (1895, one case, 1900, one case), in that the disease did not spread beyond the initial cases. Tipton is well protected by vaccination, although it is to be regretted that in the majority of cases the infants are not vaccinated in the statutory 4 places, and consequently their vaccination will not protect them for any great length of time.

PUERPERAL OR CHILD-BED FEVER.

Four cases have been notified, and one death has occurred. I could not satisfactorily account for the death, the patient's surroundings were not insanitary, and as far as I could ascertain there had been no possibility of her becoming infected from an outside source. None of the cases were confined to any one part of the district, nor were they attended by any one person. One occurred in January, two in May, and one in November; in two cases the women were kept in a very dirty state. The nurse mid-wives are much more efficient than they were previous to the passing of the Mid-wives Act. They are cleaner in themselves, more attentive to the sanitary condition of the patient, and more careful in sending for medical aid when requisite. There is, however, much room for improvement, and I trust that in the near future, the present old nurses will be succeeded by younger, better educated, and certified mid-wives.

	Deaths	Births			Deaths	Births
1906	1	1112	...	1904	1	1114
1905	1	1072	...	1903	2	1137

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS' ACT.

There are 127 factories, and 129 workshops on the register. All necessary visits have been paid to home workers. 29 bake-houses are registered, none of them underground. One complaint has been made as to deficient sanitary conveniences; in some cases the conveniences are of a very primitive nature. The factories and workshops are not over-crowded, and I have not found any of the proprietors employing a child under age. Under the circumstances, the provisions of the Act are fairly well carried out, and there has been no cause for anything more serious than notices to ensure the abatement of nuisances complained about.

MEAT—POOR AND UNSOUND.

Much of the meat sold is very poor and not nutritious; this is particularly the case in the Great Bridge market on Saturday evening. Many times carcasses, much wasted and devoid of fat, have been inspected by me, but I could trace no signs of tubercle. In one instance four quarters of beef, evidently tubercular, were seized by the Sanitary Inspector and condemned by me, the butcher being summoned and fined by the magistrates. The Sanitary Inspector and myself have made many inspections and visits, but there is great difficulty in obtaining a sufficiently clear and definite certainty that the meat seized is anything more than not nutritious, unless there is some palpable sign of tubercle, this is usually impossible, as all traces of tubercular disease are usually removed by the butcher before our visit.

OFFENSIVE PROCESSES OF TRADE.

The fried fish business is one of the most offensive of our trades. The nuisance arises partly from the fumes not being properly carried up the flues, and partly from the unusable portion of the fish which are not properly destroyed. Of a necessity all of the fish-frying shops have a cowl, but it is not universally successful in abating the smoke nuisance. We have a soap-boiling works which is kept inoffensive. On two occasions a serious complaint has been made as to a nuisance arising from an oil works; this, however, has been abated, and promises have been given that the nuisance should not arise again. Candle making is carried on in one factory, but there has been no complaint.

DAIRY AND MILK SHOPS.

The milk shops are on the increase, 23 Dairies and Milk shops and 30 Cowsheds are on the register. We find that milk is more universally used as an article of diet than it formerly was. Much improvement has been made in some of the cow-houses, but they require constant supervision or they become insanitary from overcrowding. Tenants apply for a licence for a certain number of cows, but will place more cows in their cow-sheds than the statutory rules allow, and consider it a hardship not to be allowed to keep them. To have perfectly pure and safe milk the sanitary surroundings of the cow must be good.

BAKE-HOUSES.

There are 29 on the register; these have been inspected and reported upon. As a rule they are kept in a fairly good condition, their floors are, however, almost universally caked with dirt, principally composed of flour, coal dust, and earth. None, however, are so insanitary as to require closing. We are trying, by persuasion rather than by compulsion, to get the owners of the bake-houses to keep their premises in a more sanitary condition.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

These have all been inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. 23 are on the register. We do not register any slaughter-houses now, they are only licensed for 12 months, so that if a slaughter-house is not properly managed the license can be revoked at the end of the year. In some cases minor defects have been discovered, but, as a rule, the slaughter-houses are kept clean and are regularly white-washed.

During the year I have inspected and reported upon the sanitary condition of 133 houses and made special reports upon the properties in Simons Passage, the City, and four separate Courts. I have analyzed five samples of drinking water submitted to me by the Sanitary Inspector, and have given a detailed report upon the epidemic of Sore Throats in

the Burnt Tree Board Schools, and the Typhoid Fever epidemic in Horseley Heath; I have also made such systematic visits to the factories, workshops, and properties in the district which I have considered advisable. I have had very material assistance from Mr. Clifton, our Sanitary Inspector, who has performed his duties in a masterly and efficient manner, and has shewn great tact in dealing with several very difficult cases.

TABLE SHEWING THE CAUSES OF AND NUMBER OF DEATHS
DURING THE YEAR.

	Total at all ages	Und'r 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	Over 65
Puerperal Fever	1 death					1	
Measles	1 "		1				
Scarlet Fever	1 "		1				
Whooping Cough	11 "	9	2				
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup	8 "		6	2			
Enteric Fever	16 "			1	2	13	
Epidemic Influenza	5 "					5	
Diarrhœa	33 "	27	3			1	2
Enteritis	28 "	21	4			2	1
Erysipelas	2 "					2	
Other Septic Diseases	1 "				1		
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	15 "	1			1	13	
Other Tubercular Diseases	3 "	1				2	
Cancer, Malignant Disease	9 "					6	3
Bronchitis	40 "	14	1			15	10
Pneumonia	40 "	12	17	2	2	3	4
Pleurisy	1 "		1				
Alcòholism and Cirrhosis of Liver	4 "				1	3	
Venereal Diseases	2 "	2					
Premature Birth	10 "	10					
Disease and Accidents of Par- turation	1 "				1	1	
Heart Diseases	21 "	1			2	14	4
Suicides	3 "					2	1
All other Causes	204 "	76	10	4	7	39	67
TOTAL	460 deaths	174	46	9	17	122	92

TABLE SHEWING THE VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT
DURING 1906 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS		TOTAL DEATHS REGIS- TERED IN THE DISTRICT				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT	Deaths of Non-resid'ts registered in Public In- stitutions in the District	Deaths of Resid'ts reg- ist'd in Public Institu- tions bey'd the District	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT	
		Number	Rate*	Under 1 Ye'r of Age		At all Ages					Number	Rate*
				Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number	Rate*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1896	29,316	1174	40·04	215	183	637	21·4	1			637	21·4
1897	29,800	1062	35·63	163	153	521	17·4				521	17·4
1898	30,000	1085	35·01	226	208	637	21·2				637	21·2
1899	30,000	1200	39·34	242	201	599	19·6				599	10·6
1900	31,000	1081	34·87	181	167	628	20·2				628	20·2
1901	30,543	1155	37·72	167	147	476	15·5				476	15·5
1902	31,000	1122	36·01	175	147	535	17·2	8			535	17·2
1903	31,250	1137	36·38	144	126	448	14·3	4			448	14·3
1904	31,250	1144	36·31	186	161	558	17·7	4			558	17·7
1905	31,250	1072	34·30	143	133	472	15·1	1	3		475	15·16
Averag's for years 1896-1905	30,540	1123	36·56	184	172	551	17·9				551	17·9
1906	31,250	1112	35·5	174	156	460	14·7	7		1	461	14·7

* Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Vital Statistics in 1906 and previous years :

Year	Population estimated to middle of each year		Births registered		Deaths at all Ages		Deaths under 1 year	
1896	...	29,316	...	1174	...	637	...	215
1897	...	29,800	...	1062	...	521	...	163
1898	...	30,000	...	1085	...	637	...	226
1899	...	30,000	...	1200	...	599	...	242
1900	...	31,300	...	1081	...	628	...	181
1901	...	30,543	...	1155	...	476	...	167
1902	...	30,000	...	1122	...	535	...	175
1903	...	31,250	...	1137	...	448	...	144
1904	...	31,250	...	1144	...	558	...	186
1905	...	31,250	...	1072	...	472	...	143
Averages of years 1896-1905 }		30,540	...	1123	...	551	...	184
1906	...	31,250	...	1112	...	450	...	174

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING
THE YEAR 1906.

		At all Ages	Und'r 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	Over 65	Cases re- moved to Hospital	D'ths
Diphtheria	...	24	1	2	11	5	5			2
Membranous Croup	...	12		9	3					6
Erysipelas	...	35	2	2	3	3	21	4		2
Scarlet Fever	...	58	2	17	34	3	2		25	1
Enteric Fever	...	54		7	25	9	13		33	16
Puerperal Fever	...	2					2			1
TOTALS	...	185	5	37	76	20	43	4	58	28

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Annual Birth rates and Death rates from the Seven Chief
Epidemic Diseases compared with Tipton.

		Annual Rates per 1000 Living.			Infant Mortality : Annual Death rate of Infants under 1 year per 1000 Births.
		Births.	Deaths from all Causes.	Deaths from Seven Chief Epidemic Diseases.	
England and Wales	...	27.0	15.4	1.73	133
76 great towns	...	27.9	16.0	2.24	146
142 smaller towns	...	26.5	14.4	1.70	138
England and Wales less the 218 towns	...	26.3	15.0	1.18	115
Tipton	...	35.5	14.7		156

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,
OWEN STREET, TIPTON.

February, 1907.

REMOVAL OF NIGHT SOIL AND ASHES.

The work in my department during the year has been fairly heavy. 34 new houses having been erected, although a few have been taken down (*viz.*, The City, and a few houses in Walton Street and Queen's Road), we must have something like 7,535 houses in our parish; this means a large and increasing amount of excrement and house refuse for collection and disposal. During the year 25,561 houses have been visited for night soil and ashes, with more uniformity than previously obtained, for each gang of men take an interest in their work, and on the "Returns" sent in always report either night soil or ashes which may require removing, together with my inspections we are conversant with the need of removal in every part of our district, so that personal notification by the people is becoming less year by year.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

During the year 207 cases have been received, the persons visited by me, and the premises inspected, which for all practicable purposes is a sanitary survey. 58 cases have been removed to the hospital for infectious diseases. We have now in use the new ambulance car for the removal of infectious cases, which is kept on the hospital premises always ready for use. The whole of the work is now done by us except the hiring of the horse, which means that the cost of removal is done at a considerable less cost to the Council than formerly. The hospital has proved a blessing to many persons who have no proper means of isolation.

During the year 49 rooms have been fumigated after infectious disease, and Burnt Tree Council School (Infants) after a few cases of Diphtheria, the children living in Dudley and Rowley parishes:

PETROLEUM ACTS.

The number of licenses (8) are the same as last year;

the premises are inspected, and I have found the premises comply with the requirements of the Acts.

INSPECTION OF CANAL BOATS.

The number of boats inspected was 120. 13 complaint notes were sent to various canal boat owners calling attention to 18 contraventions of the Acts and Regulations. The boats on the whole were kept in a fairly decent condition.

Summary—

Painting	...	...	...	2
Dilapidations	...	...	...	2
Overcrowding	...	...	...	3
Without Pump	...	...	...	3
Certificate unreadable	...	...	...	4
Female improperly occupying			...	1
Without Certificate	...	...	...	3
				<hr/>
				18

Four persons were cautioned for minor infringements. No case of sickness or any obstruction met with.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, MILKSHOPS AND SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The number of Dairies and Cowsheds increase in number each year, and one of our greatest difficulties is to keep cow-keepers within their bounds. They commence with premises suitable for two cows, and afterwards overcrowd the cowhouse with four and five cows, to the detriment of the cows themselves, for they can not be healthy if they continually breathe vitiated air, for the air of the cowhouse is often impure by the inattention of the cow-keepers themselves: a cowhouse cannot be kept too clean and free from dung. The cows are not kept clean, and their hind quarters are anything but inviting. I trust that the time is not far distant when the animals here may have the same attention as horses.

The Slaughter-houses are kept in a fairly good condition. Most of them are old and too near the dwelling houses, but being registered we cannot close them unless kept in bad condition. The Medical Officer of Health and myself have inspected these places and made suggestions to the occupiers for their better control.

The number of Slaughter-houses on our register is	23
„ Cowsheds „ „	30
„ Dairies and Milkshops „	23

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS' ACT, 1901.

Under this Act much useful work has been done during the year by increased convenience being provided for the workpeople. In a few cases extra privies have been provided, and in one case an extra water closet; others are waiting for sewer extension so that they may increase their accommodation.

The homework is carried on under conditions which leaves little to complain of. No case of infectious disease has occurred during the year in any of the workshops, and all of them are kept clean.

The Bakehouses are well kept, but I find in a few places the owners make them a storeroom as well; this is objected to, but usually the complaint is soon remedied. The list of out-workers has been received, and our list dispatched to the respective Local Authorities.

The number of workshops on our register at the present time is 129.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK.

					Inspections and Observations made.	Formal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances Abated Notice.
Dwelling Houses. and Schools.	{	Foul Conditions	...	...	130	130	122
		Structural Defects	...	...	130	130	122
		Overcrowding	...	...	7	7	7
		Unfit for Habitation	...	...	20	20	20
		Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	92	...	...
		Cowsheds	...	...	120	4	2
		Bakehouses	...	...	128	...	...
		Slaughter-houses	...	...	92	...	...
		Canal Boats	...	...	120	...	...
		Ashpits and Privies	...	...	299	292	299
		Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	18	14	22
House Drainage.		Water Closets	...	...	6	6	6
	{	Defective Traps	...	...	6	6	6
		No Disconnection	...	...	8	6	6
		Other Faults	...	...	8	2	6
		Water Supply	...	...	11	9	9
		Pigsties	...	...	8	9	6
		Animals improperly kept	...	...	8	8	6
		Offensive Trades	...	...	8	2	6
		Smoke Nuisances	...	...	1	1	...
		Other Nuisances	...	...	20	10	8
TOTALS					1240	656	653

Seizures of Unwholesome Food	...	...	...	1
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	11
„ „ condemned as unfit for use	...	...	...	9

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed	...	...	...	48
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	48
Schools	„	„	„	1

Yours truly,

CHAS. H. CLIFTON, C.S.I.,

(*Asso. R. San. Inst.*)

Sanitary Inspector.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICES,

OWEN STREET, TIPTON.

*February 13th, 1907.**A. S. Underhill, Esq.*

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in forwarding you a short report relative to the work in my department during the 12 months ending December 31st, 1907.

Plans approved for New Houses	...	...	...	34		
”	”	”	Bakehouses	...	...	1
”	”	”	Stables	...	...	1
”	”	”	Cowhouses	...	...	1
”	”	”	Factory	...	...	1
”	”	”	W.C.’s and Connections	...	...	10
”	”	”	Alterations to existing buildings	...	...	2
”	”	”	Connections to Sewer	...	...	8

Trade being so depressed during the year throughout the district has naturally had a considerable effect on the erection of new property, hence the small number of houses erected, although much has been done in the erection and repair of outbuildings, closets, and the re-construction of drains. The principal work undertaken by the Council during the year has been the scheme for dealing with the sewage of the parish, and the construction of the necessary sewers to deal with same, and also the re-modelling, and practically re-construction, of the Outfall Works. The particulars and drawings relating to this scheme are now prepared and ready for submitting to the Local Government Board. This will, naturally, cost a large amount of money, and will require serious consideration as to the best method of carrying out the work, in order to prevent a too sudden increase in the rates. If the work is to be carried out it must be done in such a manner as will only cause a gradual increase, as it is very important, in my opinion, that the rate in our town should be kept as low as possible, consistent with efficiency,

to encourage new industries coming here. The advantages and facilities possessed by us should be an inducement to manufacturers to avail themselves of these privileges, and if these can be again further facilitated by low rates, I see no reason why this should not be realised. It must also be apparent to every ratepayer that the improvements which have been carried out during the year, such as the widening of Park Lane West, Walton Street and Queen's Road, as well as the purchase and removal of buildings in some insanitary areas, is a work that reflects the greatest credit upon the Council, who have given particular and whole-hearted attention to this question; and when it is considered that the whole of the cost of these improvements have been defrayed out of an "improvement scheme fund," and without having cost the rates a single penny, I think it will be agreed that they and their predecessors deserve every commendation for the negotiations made which led to the creation of such a fund, and without which this work could not have been done, only by resorting to an increase in the rate. Much more similar work is in contemplation, and will eventually be carried out, but I would rather see this work paid for out of a loan, to be applied for and repayable in a term of years. The repayment of such loan and interest should then be made out of this "improvement scheme fund." In each case there would be no necessity to require any money from the rates, but if the latter course were adopted, this work could be done more expeditiously, and there are still many places throughout the parish which have long remained "eyesores," which could have attention. It is my intention at the commencement of our next financial year, to submit a list of some of the most important and necessary cases, with an estimate of the total cost, and suggest the advisability of carrying out the work in this manner. Another matter which will conduce to the health of the localities, is the asphalt paving laid down in some of the public passages, which at one time were scarcely fit to walk through, but which are now vastly improved by reason of this work being done. The asphalt has been mixed and laid down by the men under my superintendence, and the cost has been much less than if we had let the work by contract.

I am also pleased to say that, at last, after many months of weary waiting, the tramway from Dudley to Princes End has been relaid and equipped for electric traction, and the cars have commenced to run, and we are hoping soon to have a continuance of the system to Wednesbury. In con-

clusion, I have to acknowledge the assistance of the Council, and the whole of my brother officials throughout the year, who have, on every occasion required, given such assistance willingly and ungrudgingly.

I have the honour to remain,

Yours very sincerely,

WM. H. JUKES,

Surveyor.